

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A system for managing and tracking information items within a first message-based system device, the first message-based system device being one of a set of message-based systems-system devices within a workgroup, the first message-based system device having a viewer, the system comprising:

a thrask generating module generating a plurality of thrasks, each of the thrasks including at least one message information item that is assigned a set of metadata, the metadata relating to priorities and events of information items and including at least one of the group of a deadline, a reminder, a deferral and an obligation; obligation, and including task information independent of the message information of the thrask;

a sorting module sorting a new message information item into one of the thrasks in accordance with at least one criterion;

a display module displaying one or more of the thrasks and at least one of the metadata ~~of each of the~~ assigned to each of the message information items in each of the displayed thrasks in the viewer; and

an updating module updating the thrasks and at least one of the metadata based on at least one of user input, archived data in a database, time and progress.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 3 wherein the first message-based system device has different capabilities than at least one in the set of message-based systems.system devices.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for managing and tracking information items within a first message-based system device, the first message-based system device being one

of a set of message-based ~~systems~~-system devices within a shared workgroup, the message-based ~~systems~~-system devices being synchronized periodically with a shared workgroup component on a server, the first message-based system device having a viewer, the method comprising the operations of:

generating a plurality of thrasks, each of the thrasks including at least one message information item that is assigned a set of metadata, the metadata relating to priorities and events of information items and including at least one of the group of a deadline, a reminder, a deferral and an ~~obligation~~; obligation, and including task information independent of the message information of the thrask;

sorting a new message information item into one of the thrasks in accordance with at least one criterion;

displaying one or more of the thrasks and at least one of the metadata ~~of one of the assigned to one of the message~~ information items in one of the displayed thrasks in the viewer; and

providing a shared view of some of the thrasks to a subset of the message-based ~~systems~~-system devices within the shared workgroup in response to a user selection of an option; and

updating at least one of the metadata ~~of one of the assigned to one of the message~~ information items in one of the thrasks based on at least one of user input, archived data in a database, time and progress.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A system for managing and tracking information items within a first message-based system device, the first message-based system device being one of a set of message-based ~~systems~~-system devices within a shared workgroup, the message-

based system device being synchronized periodically with a shared workgroup component on a server, the first message-based system device having a viewer, the system comprising:

a thrask generating module generating a plurality of thrasks, each of the thrasks including at least one message information item that is assigned a set of metadata, the metadata relating to priorities and events of information items and including at least one of the group of a deadline, a reminder, a deferral and an obligation; obligation, and including task information independent of the message information of the thrask;

a sorting module sorting a new message information item into one of the thrasks in accordance with at least one criterion;

a display module displaying one or more of the thrasks and at least one of the metadata of one of the assigned to one of the message information items in one of the displayed thrasks in the viewer; and

a sharing module providing a shared view of some of the thrasks to a subset of the message-based systems-system devices within the shared workgroup in response to a user selection of an option; and

an updating module updating at least one of the metadata of one of the assigned to one of the message information items in one of the thrasks based on at least one of user input, archived data in a database, time and progress.

8. (Canceled)